

Message Text

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45

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 DPW-01

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4506

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

UNCLAS SAIGON 3955

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJECT: VN RADIO AND PRESS CRITICIZE US POLICY IN VIETNAM

DEPT PASS TO IBS/NCA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. ON MARCH 27, GVN RADIO STATION IN SAIGON RAN COMMENTARY CRITICAL OF US POLICY WHICH IT ATTRIBUTED TO CHAIRMEN OF UPPER AND LOWER HOUSE OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. REGULAR NEWS REPORT AT 1900 HOURS QUOTED SENATE PRESIDENT RAN VAN LAM AS HAVING SAID THAT "IF US RESPECTS ITS PROMISES THAT IT MADE WHEN THE GVN SIGNED THE PARIS AGREEMENT... SOUTH VIETNAM WOULD NOT HAVE TO ASK FOR EVEN ONE DOLLAR OF ASSISTANCE." FOR THIS REASON, ACCORDING TO SENATOR LAM, "300 MILLION DOLLARS THAT PRESIDENT FORD REQUESTED THE US CONGRESS TO APPROVE WOULD ONLY HAVE MEANING WHEN US AGREES TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE RVN IN ITS FIGHT AGAINST THE COMMUNISTS..."

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2. SAME NEWS REPORT ATTRIBUTED FOLLOWING STATEMENT TO HOUSE

SPEAKER NGUYEN BA CAN: "WHILE WE ARE FIGHTING WITH OUR MODEST MEANS, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS CONTINUE TO RECEIVE AMPLE ASSISTANCE FROM COMMUNIST NATIONS. THE FIGHTING CAPABILITY OF THE RVN IS AFFECTED BY THE CUTTING OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE FROM US\$1.270 BILLION IN 1973 TO US\$700 MILLION IN 1975, OR A DECREASE OF 70 PERCENT THE CONSEQUENCE OF SUCH AN IMBALANCE ENCOURAGES THE NORTH VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS TO OPEN SUCCESSIVE ATTACKS AGAINST THE RVN... THE US SIGNED THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND PLEDGED TO ASSURE IMPLEMENTATION OF IT. IS THE US GOING TO STAND AND WATCH HANOI TEAR UP THE AGREEMENT OR NOT? WILL THE US CARRY OUT ITS MORAL RESPONSIBILITY AND DUTY TOWARD THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE OR NOT?"

3. ON MARCH 28, DOC LAP (INDEPENDENT) CARRIED EDITORIAL ENTITLED "US IN TIGHT SITUATION FROM MIDEAST TO INDOCHINA" WHICH CONTENDED THAT " THE US IS NOW STANDING IN THE FACE OF A DISASTER. THE ARAB FACTION WILL TOUGHEN ITS ATTITUDE WHEN IT SEES THE US STRATEGIC DECADENCE ALL OVER THE WORLD." SAME ARTICLE ASKED: "WHAT WILL THE US DO TO GET OUT OF THIS FIX?" AND WENT ON TO CONCLUDE THAT "A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT CAN SUCCEED ONLY WHEN THE US STILL HOLDS THE BALANCE OF FORCES IN ITS HANDS. WITHOUT ANY HOPE FOR A SETTLEMENT, ONLY TWO OPTIONS REMAIN FOR THE US: EITHER TO RAISE ITS HANDS IN SURRENDER AND RENOUNCE ITS INFLUENCE IN THE WORLD, OR USE FORCE ON A LARGE SCALE TO START A THIRD WORLD WAR."

4. ON MARCH 29, TRANG DEN (INDEPENDENT OPPOSITION) NOTED THAT: "ALL THE MOURNING IN VIETNAM IS DUE TO US INDIFFERENCE TOWARD AND ALLY." ON SAME DAY, CHINH LUAN (CONSTRUCTIVE OPPOSITION) CRITICIZED SECRETARY KISSINGER FOR NOT MENTIONING "ANY TRAGIC DETAILS CONCERNING THE VIETNAM SITUATION" IN HIS RECENT PRESS CONFERENCE. CHINH LUAN STATED THAT: " THIS IS QUITE UNDERSTANDABLE, BECAUSE ON THE ONE HAND THAT SITUATION IS THE NATURAL CONSEQUENCE OF WHAT KISSINGER DESCRIBED AS A BREAKING OF PROMISES ON THE PART OF THE US CONGRESS AND AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION IN THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO SUPPORT SOUTH VIETNAM. ON THE OTHER HAND, THAT SITUATION IS ALSO THE NATURAL CONSEQUENCE OF WHAT TWO YEARS AGO HE GLADLY CALLED AN HONORABLE PEACE WHICH LED TO HIS BEING AWARDED THE NOBEL PRIZE TOGETHER WITH THE ENEMY."

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5. OPENING WITH A DESCRIPTION OF "A MOURNING COACH ON WHICH WAS LAID A CASKET COVERED WITH THE NATIONAL FLAG." TRANG DEN IN SAME ISSUE, RESPONDED TO ITS OWN QUESTION ON WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE "TRAGIC SITUATION" BY CHARGING THAT THE "AMERICANS HAVE SHOWN IN DIFFERENCE TOWARD AND ALLY." SAME ARTICLE THEORIZED THAT? "WITH ITS NETWORK OF INTERNATIONAL INTELLIGENCE, THE US MUST HAVE KNOWN THOROUGHLY THE MOVEMENTS OF COMMUNIST TROOPS INTO SOUTH VIETNAM AND THE LEVEL OF MILITARY

AID GIVEN TO NVN BY RUSSIA AND COMMUNIST CHINA." THEREFORE, THE ARTICLE ASKS: "WHY DID MR. MARTIN GO TO WASHINGTON THE DAY BEFORE BAN ME THUOT WAS OVERRUN AND ARVN HAD TO REDEPLOY ITS FORCES AND RETURN TO HIS SAIGON POST ONLY TODAY?" CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH STATED THAT" "THE MOURNING COACH WHICH PASSED BY HAS LAID MORE CHARGES ON THE SHOULDERS OF THE US, THE SOVIET UNION AND COMMUNIST CHINA. THE MORE TRAGEDIES ARE ACCUMULATED IN THIS SOUTH VIETNAM, THE MORE THE AMERICANS HAVE TO BEAR FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEM. THE TRUE FACE OF THE AMERICANS HAS BEEN UNMASKED..."

6. CRITICIZING THE SLOGAN "PEACE WITH HONOR" IN THE FACE OF UNTOLD SUFFERING BY THE VIETNAMESE, CINH LUAN "HOPED THAT THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE "WILL NOT HAVE THE BITTER HONOR TO HEAR AGAIN CONGRESSMAN FRASER'S STATEMENT ABOUT AN ORDERLY SURRENDER IN CAMBODIA. IF THIS EVER HAPPENS TO VIETNAM, I CAN ASSURE TO MR. FRASER AND ALL THE OTHER AMERICANS WHO SHARE HIS POINT OF VIEW, THAT IN ALL PARTS OF VIETNAM, IN EVERY MILITARY CEMETERY HERE, RELATIVES AND FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS OF EACH OF OUR SOLDIERS WHO DIED FOR "FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY" AND FOR "PEACE IN HONOR," WILL SILENTLY AND RESIGNEDLY CARVE BELOW THE NAMES OF THE DEAD ONE ADDITIONAL LINE DESIRED BY MR. FRASER-- "SURRENDERED IN ORDER" -- MEANING THE GEOMETRICAL ORDER OF THE GRAVES IN THE MILITARY CEMETERIES STREWN THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY."

MARTIN

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